Claims

[c1]   A method for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a hardfile controller
         included in a computer system having an operating system performing a pre-
         boot test, comprising the steps of:
         a) detecting a boot condition during the pre-boot test; and
         b) altering, in response to the boot condition, an operating system access
         configuration of the hardfile.

[c2]   The access method of claim 1 wherein the altering step b) dynamically sets a
         maximum accessible size of the hardfile.

[c3]   The access method of claim 1 wherein the hardfile is a hard drive.

[c4]   The method of claim 1 wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of
         the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and
         wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile access to exclude the second part
         of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

[c5]   The method of claim 2 wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of
         the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and
         wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile maximum size to exclude the
         second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

[c6]   The method of claim 4 wherein the boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

[c7]   A method for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a computer system
         having an operating system, comprising the steps of:
         a) detecting a special boot condition during a pre-boot test of the computer
         system; and
         b) altering, in response to the special boot condition, an operating system
         access configuration of the hardfile.

[c8]   The access method of claim 7 wherein the altering step b) dynamically sets a
         maximum accessible size of the hardfile.

[c9]   The access method of claim 7 wherein the hardfile is a hard drive.

[c10]   The method of claim 7 wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile access to exclude the second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

[c11]   The method of claim 8 wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile maximum size to exclude the second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

[c12]   The method of claim 10 wherein the special boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

[c13]   A storage system for a computer system having an operating system and a pre-boot procedure, comprising:
a hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile; and
a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a special boot condition detected by the pre-boot procedure, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access to only the first part in a second mode.

[c14]   A storage system for a computer system having an operating system, comprising:
a hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile; and
a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a special boot condition detected by a pre-boot procedure of the computer system, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access to only the first part in a second mode.

[c15]
A storage system controller for a hardfile of a computer system having an operating system and a pre-boot procedure, the hardfile for non-volatile

storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile, comprising:

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a boot condition detected by the pre-boot procedure, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access by the operating system to only the first part in a second mode.

[c16]   A storage system controller for a hardfile of a computer system having an operating system, the hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile, comprising:

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a boot condition detected by a pre-boot procedure of the computer system, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access by the operating system to only the first part in a second mode.

[c17]   A hardfile system for a computer system, comprising:

a hardfile for nonvolatile storage of a operating system and user data;

means, coupled to the computer system, for detecting a special boot condition during the pre-boot test; and

means, coupled to the hardfile and to the detecting means, for altering, in response to the special boot condition, an operating system access configuration of the hardfile.

[c18]   A hardfile storage system, comprising:

a hardfile for nonvolatile storage of an operating system for a computer system in a first part and for nonvolatile storage of user data in a second part; and

means, coupled to the hardfile, for dynamically enabling operating system access to the hardfile in a first mode and a second mode, wherein the first mode enables access to the first part and the second part and the second mode enables access to only the first part.

[c19]   A computer usable medium having computer readable program code means

embodied therein for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a hardfile controller included in a computer system having an operating system performing a pre-boot test, the computer readable program code means in the computer usable medium comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing the computer system to detect a boot condition during the pre-boot test; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer system to alter, in response to the boot condition, an operating system access configuration parameter of the hardfile.

[c20]   The computer usable medium of claim 19 wherein the boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

[c21]   The computer usable medium of claim 19 wherein the hardfile is a hard disk.

[c22]   The computer usable medium of claim 21 wherein the configuration parameter is a SETMAX value.

[c23]   A computer readable medium containing program instructions for access control of a hard file in a computer system, the program instructions for:

a) detecting a boot condition during the pre-boot test; and

b) altering, in response to the boot condition, an operating system access configuration of an access parameter of the hardfile.

[c24]   The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

[c25]   The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the hardfile is a hard disk.